

## IN THIS EDITION



It took lots of help and generosity from the community to make the All-America City campaign possible. See page 3.



Garner citizens, officials recognized by state Senate. See page 4.

## TOWN HALL SCHEDULE

July 16: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

July 30: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

Aug. 5: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in Building B at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. Town Council meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



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# SPECIAL



# EDITION

July 2013

# GARNER UPDATE

Vol. 55, No. 61



Garner's All-America City delegation poses for the cameras after Garner is named an All-America City at the awards ceremony in Denver on June 16.

## Garner Earns Coveted National Recognition

Ask folks around here and they'll tell you they've known it for years, but on June 16 Garner gained the National Civic League's imprimatur and now it can be stated unequivocally that Garner ... *is* ... an All-America City.

The esteemed organization named Garner one of 10 All-America Cities for 2013 at its annual awards ceremony in Denver. The June 16 award announcement followed Garner's gripping presentation to a panel of 12 judges the day before. The town was competing against 19 other finalists

to win the All-America City Award.

"This award validates all of the great work that citizens, nonprofit groups, the faith community and local businesses are doing in Garner," Mayor Ronnie Williams said after Garner was named a winner. "I've always known that Garner is an All-America city, but it's thrilling to get the official designation."

In accordance with the National Civic League's stipulations and

Please see page 2



To learn more about Garner's All-America City campaign, click on the All-America City logo at [garnernc.gov](http://garnernc.gov).



## Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's 'Great People in Garner' on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99) and on demand at [garnernc.gov](http://garnernc.gov).



Mayor Ronnie Williams holds the certificate designating Garner as an All-America City at the awards presentation in Denver on June 16.

Being named an All-America City certainly was one of the biggest honors—if not the biggest—that I've had serving as Garner's mayor. I've been asked what it means to get the All-America City designation.

It's been called the "Nobel Prize" of civic accomplishment. That sounds good—but what's it really mean? The National Civic League, which runs the All-America City program, espouses things such as innovation, inclusiveness and cross-sector collaborations. It especially highlights and celebrates what citizens, not government, are doing to tackle problems and open up opportunities in their communities—though the NCL is happy to see government acting as a partner

in worthy citizen-led projects.

You can see, then, why the NCL selected Garner as an All-America City. We have so many great citizen-driven projects, from the Veterans Memorial to Community of Hope to the Towne Players to the Broadway Voices series—plus so many more. I am astounded when I take a step back and see all of the great things our citizens have done in recent years, and I am looking forward to seeing what great citizen-led initiatives emerge in the coming years. Congratulations, Garner, on being an All-America City!

*Ronnie S. Williams*

Ronnie S. Williams

## All-America City

continued from page 1

guidelines, Garner highlighted citizen-led efforts to build the Garner Veterans Memorial; to create and sustain Community of Hope's after-school program, food pantry and other ministries; and to boost the performing arts scene at Garner Performing Arts Center.

The town's application for the award, as well as its June 15 presentation, cited other citizen-led efforts such as the Meals on Wheels program at Garner Senior Center, the town's annual Relay for Life event at Lake Benson Park and grassroots activism to save Garner from the Triangle Expressway "red route" and block closure of the Wake County Library Southeast Regional Branch in Garner.

In keeping with National Civic League instructions, the focus of the application and presentation was citizen engagement, cross-sector collaboration, innovation and inclusive-



Vince Wood adds the All-America City logo to his Great Things Grow in Garner painting (see page 3).

ness. The All-America City awards seek to spotlight grassroots solutions to meeting pressing challenges and critical needs in communities across the country.

The prestigious award has been dubbed the "Nobel Prize" for civic accomplishment. Garner is the first locality in the Triangle to win the honor since Durham in 1982-83. The last Wake County municipality to earn the

award was Raleigh in 1974-75.

The Town has already been using the award to help raise Garner's profile in the region and will soon roll out a comprehensive marketing plan to take advantage of the All-America City designation. Town leaders expect the award to not only help Garner's image but to potentially open up doors on the economic development front.

"The All-America designation for Garner can certainly help in our economic development efforts," Garner Economic Development Director Tony Beasley said. "We will use it as a marketing tool to start conversations with developers and others outside the Raleigh area. But even more important, it validates our position when discussing our community's assets to a company looking to invest here."

For more information about the All-America City award, visit [allamericacityaward.com](http://allamericacityaward.com).

# Thanks to Garner's All-America City Sponsors

Scotty McCreery	Garner's American Idol
Ken Lucas	Tarheel Companies
Marty Clayton	Duke Energy - Progress
Tommy Sims	All Star Waste
Ronnie & Scott Thompson	TT&E Iron & Metal
Vic Bell	Marjan, Ltd.
Brady Hurley	Tarheel Commodities
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George Rucker	Dixie Construction
Wendy Casey	Aversboro Restaurant
Dr. Andy Cook	Optometrist
Jim & Tana Malerba	Coats Body Shop
Buck Kennedy	Town Council Member
Ted Silver	
Laurene & Robert Williams	
Jan Baker	Carolina Clipz
Sue Gill	

## The following made in-kind donations:

- Adam Saad, Rush Hour Karting—Airport transportation
- Chuck Wyatt, Wyatt-Quarles Seeds—Seeds for civic fair booth
- Rod Brenneman, Butterball—Coupons for civic fair booth
- Barry Partlo, Agri-Supply—Backpacks for civic fair booth

## Special note of thanks to the following:

- Arlie Honeycutt, Miss North Carolina 2012—for writing and recording our awesome song
- Scotty McCreery—for starring in our awesome video
- Vince Wood—for the awesome painting (see below)
- John Hodges, Rick Mercier, Kim Moffett and Kady Doelling
- Town Hall staff—for holding down the fort while others of us have been working on All-America City
- GPAC and White Deer Park staff
- PEG Media Partnership staff
- Mayor Ronnie Williams and Town Council members
- Families of our delegates—for your patience
- Workplaces of our delegates—for granting the time away
- Garner Chamber of Commerce
- Community of Hope, Garner Veterans Memorial Committee and Towne Players



Learn more about upcoming special events in your All-America City at [garnernc.gov](http://garnernc.gov).



Garner artist Vince Wood created this original painting that was reproduced as the backdrop for Garner's All-America City presentation in Denver last month. The day after Garner was selected as an All-America City, Wood added the All-America City logo and 'Garner 2013' to his artwork.



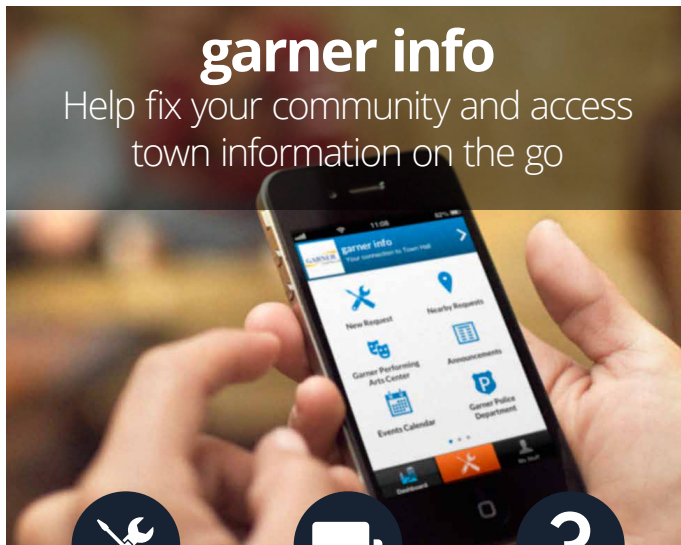


You can find  
all of the  
Town's news  
releases at  
[garnernc.gov](http://garnernc.gov).



## Commissioners Recognize Garner

Wake County Commissioner Phil Matthews (right) presents Mayor Ronnie Williams a copy of the resolution adopted by commissioners commending Garner for being selected as a 2013 All-America City. A number of Garner's citizen delegates who traveled to Denver last month to represent the town in the All-America City competition accompanied Mayor Williams to the commissioners meeting on July 1.



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You can also report issues online at  
[garnernc.gov](http://garnernc.gov) or text (617) 500-3111.

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## Big Day at General Assembly

State Sen. Chad Barefoot (pictured above in suit and tie) introduced a resolution in the state Senate on July 2 congratulating Garner for being named an All-America City for 2013. The full Senate adopted the resolution.

Prior to the Senate session that day, Sen. Barefoot met with a group of Garner's All-America City delegates. The senator, who spent some of his boyhood in Garner, and delegate members exchanged stories about Garner. Delegates discussed the projects Garner highlighted in its All-America City written application and presentation in Denver. Barefoot commented that Garner has a 'brand' built on strong community spirit and cohesion.